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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

TOPIC 12th Tank Brig in Sternberk

25X1A 25X1A

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 1 October 1950

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A DATE PREPARED 5 September 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

General.

1. Prior to 1 October 1950, the 12th Tank Brig, Utvar No 9382, in Sternberk (P 50 /N 86) was subordinate to a corps headquarters which was located in a three-story building about 1,000 meters northwest of the main railroad station of Olomouc (Olmutz = P 50/N 85). Source was told by a friend who served as a driver with the corps headquarters in Olomouc that the brigade would be transferred to Milovice (P 51/C 00) in the spring of 1951, while an infantry unit would be stationed in Sternberk.
2. All of the components of the 12th Tank Brig were quartered in Sternberk. The headquarters was in a two-story building about 100 meters south of the market square. The armored units were in the barracks on the road to Olomouc, south of the town, and in a four-story building in the southern town sector where an air force mechanics' school was located prior to 15 September 1950. The sub-machine gun battalion was in the Cloister Barracks in the northern town sector. (1)
3. Officers of the brigade included Major Jan Knara, commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant Petr, (fnu), political officer; Lieutenant Ruzicka, (fnu), DOZ officer; Staff Captain Sulc, (fnu), commanding officer of 1st Bn; Major Ploskenak, (fnu), commanding officer of 2d Bn; and Captain Jiri Lomak, commanding officer of the headquarters company. (2)

Organization and Strengths.

4. The brigade was organized into a headquarters, a headquarters company of about 90 troops, the 1st Bn consisting of 2 armored companies of about 90 troops each, the 2d Bn consisting of 2 armored and 1 maintenance company of 80 to 90 men each, the 3d (submachine gun) Bn of 300 troops, and probably 1 replacement battalion. (3)

Armament and Equipment.

5. The headquarters company was equipped with German submachine guns, 1 T-34 tank, 4 British armored reconnaissance cars with AA machine guns, 4 British Kolopasy half-track vehicles, 10 Dodge trucks, 4 jeeps, 5 passenger cars, and 5 motorcycles. The ordnance room, which source temporarily supervised,

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contained 198 German model 98-M rifles, 64 German and some other foreign-made sub-machine guns, 4 British model Bren light machine guns, and 2 German machine guns.

6. Each of the four armored companies was equipped with about 10 T-34 tanks with guns without muzzle brakes, some British armored reconnaissance cars, and an undetermined number of trucks and motorcycles. (4)
7. The submachine gun battalion was equipped with German submachine guns, some Czech heavy machine guns, some 82-mm mortars, about 10 light AT guns, 2 half-track vehicles and an undetermined number of trucks.
8. In September 1950, the brigade received about 10 new SF guns which, according to the escort soldiers, came from Vyskov (Wischau - P 50/N 71). The gun barrel had no muzzle brake and was about 3 meters long; the total length of the vehicle was estimated at 4 meters, the width at about 3 meters and the height at about 2.8 meters. About 100 Dodge trucks which, according to the escort soldiers, had been overhauled, 20 jeeps and 30 motorcycles arrived from Prague at the same time. (5)

Training.

9. The brigade was in a tent camp at the Nesto Litava (P 50/O 07) troop training grounds for four months during the summer of 1950. Primarily combined-arms attack practice involving infantry units, artillery units and some aircraft, which acted as AT fighters, was held. During the attack, the soldiers of the 3d Bn used to ride on the tanks which advanced in staggered groups of three tanks each. A Soviet officer regularly observed the exercises.
10. The brigade maintained an NCO school with about 50 men in Sternberk. Since 1950, soldiers from Vyskov, Zatec (Saaz - M 51/F 10) and Chomutov (Komotau - M 51/F 02) have also attended the 3-month courses in Sternberk. (6)

Miscellaneous.

11. Prior to February 1949, an NCO school for technical personnel was located in the Hanacke Barracks in Olomouc. Staff Captain Vitov, (fnu), was school commandant. Subjects of instruction included the use of mines and explosives and the removal of obstacles.
12. Prior to March 1949, the 6th Hanacký Inf Regt was also located in the Hanacke Barracks. Elements of the regiment were also quartered in the Janosikovy Barracks opposite the Hanacke Barracks. (7)
13. In the summer of 1950, source learned from soldiers of other units that the tank brigade stationed in Turciánský Sv. Martin (Q 50/O 69) had been reassigned to a unit in Milovice and to other tank units. An ordnance school was located 25X1A in Turciánský Sv. Martin at that time. (8)

Comments. 25X1A

- (1) The report confirms previous information on the Tank Corps and the 12th Tank Brig. See [redacted]. However, this is the first report on the transfer of the 12th Tank Brig to Milovice.
- (2) Knara, (fnu), has also been reported by other sources to be the commanding officer of the brigade. See [redacted] 25X1A
- (3) According to previous information, the 54th SMG Bn was subordinate to the 12th Tank Brig as an independent battalion. However, the present and a previous report indicate that a submachine gun battalion is organically assigned to the 12th Tank Brig. The battalion concerned may be the former 54th SMG Bn which lost its independence. See [redacted] 25X1A
- (4) According to available T/E information, a Czech tank company is equipped with 10 tanks. 25X1A

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- (5) The description of the SP guns allows no conclusions to their type.
- (6) Vyskov and Zatec are known to be posts of tank units, whereas no tank units have been reported from Chomstov to date.
- (7) A 6th Inf Regt has not been known in the Czech Army. The traditional surname "Hanacký" indicates that it probably is the 6th Itz Inf Bn which is subordinate to the motorized infantry brigade of the Tank Corps.
- (8) The 24th Tank Brig was located in Turciánský Sv. Martin until the beginning of 1949. No exact information has since been obtained on its whereabouts. There have been indications that the brigade has either become an organic component of the Tank Corps or that its troops have been reassigned to other tank units in Moravia and Bohemia.

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